Loss Making IISCO

1686. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IISCO has incurred aggregate loss of Rs. 816 crores;

(b) whether the trade unions are willing to take over the control of IISCO management on Co-operative basis; and

(c) whether the workers of the company have tried to work out any model plan to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As on 31-3-1994, IISCO had an accumulated loss of Rs. 891.17 crores.

(b) A meeting of the special Tripartite Committee under the Chairman- | ship of the Minister of State for Labour was held on 9th May, 1994 which, among others, was attended by the leaders of the Central Trade Unions. In this meeting it was decided that the workers would formulate a concrete modernisation plan for IISCO on the basis of their offer of holding 50 per cent share in the company and submit the same to SAIL by 30-6-94.

(c) While the Central Trade Union Organisations have made certain suggestions with regard to modernisation of IISCO, SAIL has not yet received any concrete proposal or model plan to take over the control of IISCO management on cooperative basis.

Import of non-coking coal

1687. PROF. VIIAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister Of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have been importing non-coking coaj for use in sponge iron sector;

(b) if so, the quantity of non-coking coal imported in each of the last three years, at what rate and from where and the procedure followed in the purchase thereof;

(c) whether Government made any efforts to uss coal of good quality from the coal reserves within the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard to save precious foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As p:r the information available with the Government, noa coking coal has not been imported for use in the sponge iron sector.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Setting up working group between China and India

1688. SHRI, GHUFRAN AZAM; SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether India and China have agreed to set up working groups to widen and deepen economical and tech nical cooperation in the steel sector in the course of discussion in New Delhi on 16th July, 1994 between an eight member Chinese delegation led by the Wu Xichun, Vice Minister for Metal lurgical Industry and the Union Minister ctf State for Steel, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 17th July, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicat ing other wide ranging issues touching upon cooperation between the two countries in the steel sector and whe ther any agreements signed between China and India also on any other areas during the last six months;